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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/865,404	05/25/2001	Marc F. Hamel	M0627/7018 (LMG)	4280
23628	7590	07/14/2004	EXAMINER	
WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, PC			GORDON, BRIAN R	
FEDERAL RESERVE PLAZA			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
600 ATLANTIC AVENUE				
BOSTON, MA 02210-2211			1743	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/865,404	HAMEL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brian R. Gordon	1743

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 7-2-04 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: 66-68.

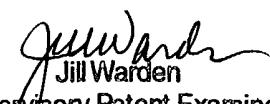
Claim(s) objected to: 3,40,41 and 62-65.

Claim(s) rejected: 2,4-12,39 and 61.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 69-72.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. Other: _____.

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Applicant has amended the claim to specify the dispensing head dispenses liquid in a first direction and while it moves in a second perpendicular direction. The pre-amended claim did not require the dispensing of the liquid in a specific direction as related to the movement of the dispensing head. Furthermore, it appears as if applicant is relying on the functional operation of the elements of the invention as being structural limiting. For example the claim recites "a dispensing head comprising a plurality of chambers and associated pistons for withdrawing a measured amount of a liquid from a source and expelling another measured amount of the liquid in a first direction from said plurality of chambers and into the wells of a plate" if applicant intends for the function or intended use of the dispensing head which is given in the text following the term "for" to be considered structurally limiting, the claim should be written in means plus function language. As presently drafted the function that follows the term "for" as related to both the dispensing head and the slideways disposed on the housing expresses intended or desired use of each component..



Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700